759
[369]

Medical personnel. Before the Second World War, a communal or cantonal doctor was treating, on the average, 4,500 patients. The percentage of trained physicians was much higher in the cities (three doctors for every 1,000 people), especially in Budapest. This situation has improved little if any since the war. There is also a shortage of trained nurses. Government decrees require communities to employ one licensed midwife for every 500 inhabitants.

The instruction of ~~medical~~ doctors is very good in Hungary. The law of 1938, still enforced, requires health officers in the country to take refresher courses in general medical practice.

[554]

In the villages the local doctor and pharmacist belong to the rural intelligentsia and are highly respected people. However, peasants often hesitate to go to the doctor in many cases of less serious illness, and they use instead popular remedies, such as herbs, potions, compresses, poultices, and the like or else, in scattered areas, rely on outright superstition for healing.

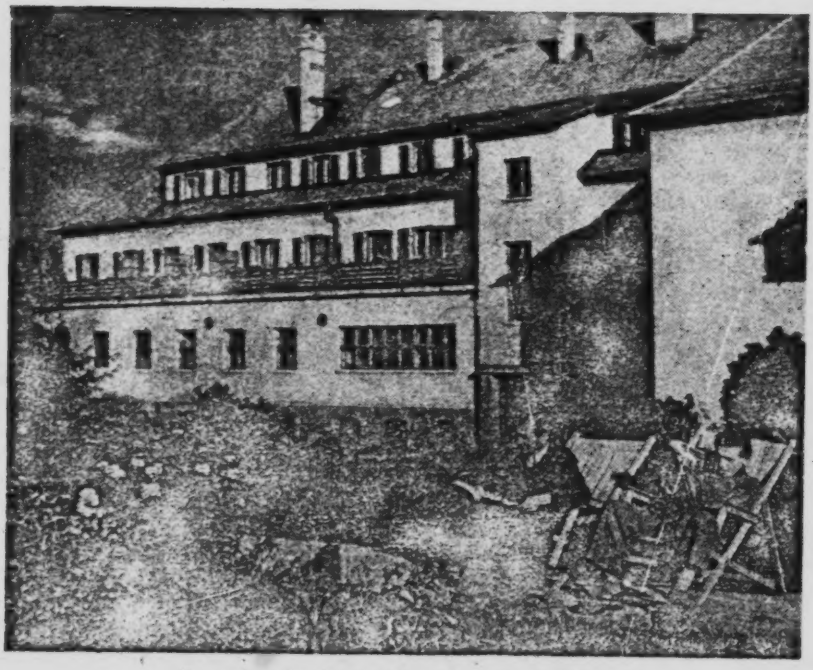
757
369

312

Sanitation. One of the greatest health problems in the Hungarian villages is that of drinking water. Piped systems are practically non-existent. In many regions, only 100-200 meter wells could

They sit and talk as old friends would. They recall that in the past the state paid little attention to the health of the workers. Half of the burden of social security was paid by the workers, but, whenever they wanted to take advantage of the social security services, the authorities always found a way to deprive them of their rightful claims.

In new Hungary everything is changed. Since the trade unions, that is, the workers themselves, direct the work of the social security organization, a number of new, modern hospitals and clinics have been established. Health care has improved, sick benefits increased, the number of accidents lessened; and health statistics show an increasingly

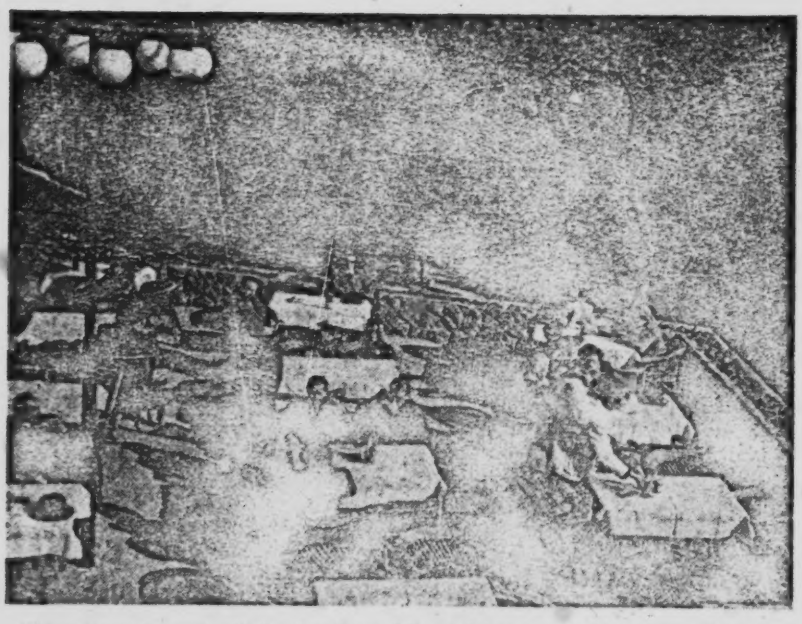


Lounging in the garden of the resort hotel

encouraging picture. The entire burden of social security is borne by the employer, that is, in most cases by the state. The network of mother and child care institutions is constantly being extended; the number of factory baby care centers and day nurseries increases day by day. As compared to 1938, infant mortality has decreased by one third.

A social security council, composed of workers, functions in every factory. This council sees to it that sanitary precautions are observed and takes care of the sanitary problems of the factory.

The trade unions handle the questions of rest and recreation and help the workers make the best use of their paid



Terrace restaurant of the hotel on Mount Liberty where Ferenc Gergely spent his vacation.

pulsory by law, and at the turn of the century the sick benefit societies were centralized. The retirement pension system of the miners was regulated by law in 1925. The above-mentioned Acts of 1927 and 1928 were followed by another (Act IV 1932), which regulates the administration of justice in cases arising out of disputes under these Acts.

The existing Hungarian social insurance organizations — especially their compulsory sick benefit insurance branch — give services which equal, and in several respects surpass, the general level of those in other European nations.

*OTI.*

Our largest social security institution is the National Social Insurance Institute, (Országos Társadalombiztosító Intézet) which had the following membership in 1940:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sickness insurance ..... | 1,065,898 | members |
| Old Age pensions ..... | 766,562 | „ |
| Accident insurance ..... | 1,143,572 | „ |
| Retirement pensions for miners | 60,801 | „ |

Over 2500 doctors were connected with the OTI in 1940. The yearly income of the institute is approximately 130 million pengős, and its different insurance funds approach 300 million pengős. It has 52 district pay offices, 15 branch offices, and 18 industrial pay offices. It gives permanent employment to almost 4000 people, and nearly 2000 are employed part-time. The Institute has full autonomy.

*MABI.*

The social welfare of the business employees is taken care of by the Insurance Board of Business Employees